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20 MAR 1958

The Honorable Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Mansfield:

I have noted with great interest the language training provisions of the bill which you and Senator Saltonstall introduced on the 25th of March. This is a subject which has received my close attention for a number of years for I feel it is essential that employees serving abroad acquire a useful knowledge of the language of the area of their prospective assignment.

In view of your interest in this field, I thought you might like to know what we are doing in language training. I am enclosing a brief analysis of our Language Development Program. We started intensive work in this field three years ago and I think significant progress has been made toward the development of a language competence in this Agency that will prove highly valuable to the United States Government.

For example, in the week beginning 8 January 1958 we had 245 personnel enrolled in 46 classes during hours, involving 15 languages; 153 enrolled in 20 classes before hours (from 0715 to 0815), involving 7 languages; and 193 enrolled in 26 classes after hours (from 1730 to 1930), involving 10 languages. There were also basic country surveys and integrated language-area studies. In order to accomplish as much as possible in the training field without interfering too much with our daily work, we have adopted such techniques as a noontime movie program using a large number of foreign films to improve simultaneously both area knowledge and language ability.

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I am impressed with your interest in the Government training programs, and would be delighted if you could find the time to see our training establishment.

Sincerely,

[SIGNED]

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosure

OGC/LC/GLC/ckm (27 March 1958)

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